

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

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INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 1819

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, GY, EAID

SUBJECT: PRE-31ST UNGA CONSULTATIONS: FONMIN WILLS COMMENTS ON
US ASSISTANCE FOR DEVELOPING NATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 220772, (B) GEORGETOWN 1817

SUMMARY: FONMIN WILLS, DURING DISCUSSION OF UN ISSUES, COMMENTED
THAT US PROPOSALS ON TRADE LACKED CREDIBILITY. LDC'S DOUBTED US
COMMITMENT TO ASSISTING THEM DEVELOP. TO BUILD CREDIBILITY,
US SHOULD START IN WESTERN HEMISPHERE WITH POSIIVE APPROACH TO
BOTH TRADE AND AID. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING OUR DISCUSSION OF UN ISSUES SEPTEMBER 10, AND IN
RESPONSE TO MY EXPOSITION ON UNCTAD IV COMMODITIES, FONMIN WILLS
COMMENTED ON THE OVERALL US APPROACH TO TRADE AND ASSISTANCE FOR
LDC'S. HE SAID THAT THE BASIC PROBLEM FOR THE US WAS THAT ITS
PROPOSALS STILL LACKED CREDIBILITY. TO OBTAIN LDC TRUST AND
COOPERATION, WILLS SAID, "YOU'VE GOT TO CHANGE THE CRUMBS FROM THE
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TABLE APPROACH" TO DEVELOPING NATIONS.

2. WILLS WENT ON AT SOME LENGTH ON THIS SUBJECT, FOCUSING MORE ON DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE RATHER THAN TRADE. HE REMINDED ME THAT AFTER WORLD WAR II, THE UNITED STATES HAD GIVEN EXTENSIVE ASSISTANCE TO A SOCIALIST BRITAIN, BUT IT WAS BALKING AT GIVING ASSISTANCE TO A GUYANA WHICH HAD DECIDED TO TAKE A SIMILAR PATH. HE ARGUED THAT THE US SHOULD HAVE A SPECIAL INTEREST IN PROVIDING TRADE OPPORTUNITIES AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO ITS CLOSE NEIGHBORS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHER. THE "BAD TASTE" LEFT BY THE "FAILURE" OF THE ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS HAD MADE OTHER NATIONS DOUBT THE US COMMITMENT TO DEVELOPMENT OF THE LDC'S.

3. A NEW AND POSITIVE APPROACH UNTAINTED BY COLD WAR CONSIDERATIONS AND FOCUSED ON THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE WOULD DO MUCH TO BUILD BROADER CONFIDENCE IN THE INTENTIONS OF THE US TO HELP THE LDC'S DEVELOP AND WOULD ENCOURAGE POSITIVE RESPONSES TO INITIATIVES SUCH AS THE US HAD MADE AT NAIROBI.

4. COMMENT: WILLS' EXPOSITION APPEARED TO BE IN PART A RESPONSE TO A PREVIOUS CONVERSATION DURING WHICH I TOLD HIM THAT THE FAILURE OF LDC'S TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THE SECRETARY'S INITIATIVES AT NAIROBI HAD BEEN A DISAPPOINTMENT. WILLS' COMMENT ABOUT THE LACK OF CREDIBILITY OF THE US COMMITMENT TO HELPING LDC'S DEVELOP MAY OR MAY NOT BE A WIDESPREAD PHENOMENON, BUT HIS PURPOSE IN FOCUSING ON "LATIN AMERICA" AND HIS REFERENCE TO GUYANA MADE CLEAR THAT HE WAS ZEROING IN ON THE DORMANT STATUS OF PENDING USAID LOANS FOR GUYANA
BLACKEN

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